

GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A MYTHBUSTER?

TELEVISION SHOW CREATES EXHIBIT AT CHICAGO MUSEUM PAGE 18

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Wednesday, March 21, 2012



News worth sharing.



Graham James's victims **SHOCKED** by sentencing

PAGE 7

Graham James, sentenced Tuesday in a Winnipeg court for sexually abusing two of his former players, reaches to block cameras as he heads into court. James was sentenced to two years in prison for hundreds of sexual assaults. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Full admission by driver in crash: Crown

Accused. Jeremy Rees is charged with impaired driving, fleeing the scene of a collision and dangerous driving causing death



JESSICA SMITH
jessica.smith@metronews.ca

The man accused of a fatal hit-and-run in Constance Bay has made "a full admission of the facts," the Crown says.

Deputy Crown attorney Nathalie Cote told a bail court Tuesday that Jeremy Rees, 23, spoke with police after he turned himself in Monday, the day after the Erin Vance was killed.

Cote told the court Rees had been drinking with Vance, 26, and some friends at a Constance Bay establishment on St. Patrick's Day. Vance and her boyfriend chose to walk home, and even though Rees was advised not to drive, he did, according to the Crown.

He drove "erratically" in the parking lot and then

sped down the road, hitting and killing Vance, Cote said.

Rees's lawyer, Paolo Giancaterino, said he doesn't know full details of the police interview and doesn't know yet how his client will plead.

Rees will seek bail at a hearing set for Tuesday.

"Everybody has the right to reasonable bail and hopefully we can get him out," said Giancaterino.



For more local news visit metronews.ca/ottawa

Take an urban historical tour

Queen's University's urban and regional planning director talks about the best and worst urban plans in Ottawa PAGE 4

Underweight models banned

A new Israeli law prohibits the employment of models whose weight is so low as to be considered unhealthy PAGE 9

Get your typing up to speed

Are the skills going downhill in many offices? PAGE 22



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Strandherd-Armstrong Bridge contractor in financial trouble

Court documents.
Contractor has debts of \$34.5 million



JESSICA SMITH
Metro in Ottawa

The contractor building a bridge planners hope will ease traffic problems in the city's south end is in receivership, but construction on the Strandherd-Armstrong Bridge will continue, Coun. Steve Desroches says.

"This is very disappointing news," said Desroches, who represents Gloucester-South Nepean. "We have been making remarkable progress on the project."

Work by ConCreate USL on Strandherd Drive and Earl Armstrong Road is finished and the bridge is about 60 per cent complete, he said. The cost of the project is estimated at \$102 million.

Desroches said work is expected to continue without delays, but should circumstances change, or should the city not be satisfied, the city's interests are protected in the contract with the construction company, which includes a \$23-million performance bond.

Analysis

Why is ConCreate USL in receivership?

The Bank of Nova Scotia demanded payment for outstanding debts of more \$34.5 million and initiated proceedings against ConCreate USL, and partner TriWest Construction, earlier this month, according to court documents. Accounting services firm Grant Thornton has been appointed interim receiver.

In a court application, the bank's lawyers said the construction partnership has been unable to fund operations — including employee and supplier payments — and there was a risk its business would deteriorate and projects would be abandoned.

ConCreate USL announced TriWest Capital Partners as its new financial and operational partner in January 2011. TriWest is jointly named in the receivership order. ConCreate USL declined a request for to comment.



Construction on the Strandherd-Armstrong Bridge will continue despite the contractor's receivership, the City of Ottawa says. JOE LOFARO/METRO

YMCA tenants being shortchanged, renter says



The YMCA on Argyle. JOE LOFARO/METRO

A man living at the Argyle Street YMCA says the Y is short-changing tenants after they were inconvenienced by renovations last year.

Kevin Edison says in December 2011, seven of his neighbours won a housing tribunal case when the Ontario Landlord and Tenant Board ruled the National Capital Region YMCA renovations interfered

with their "reasonable enjoyment." But he says the tribunal tenants got a bigger break than everyone else.

The tribunal determined all seven should get a 75 per cent rent abatement due to the elevator disruption and units being too hot or too cold. YMCA had to pay the seven amounts ranging from \$267 to \$355.

As a "gesture" to recognize

the disruption, YMCA offered all its tenants a three-month deferral on a rent increase," said Cathy Turnbull, YMCA vice president of housing, employment, and newcomer services.

Edison, who wasn't part of the tribunal case, wasn't satisfied. He complained and asked YMCA for half the abatement the other seven tenants received. JOE LOFARO



Mobile news



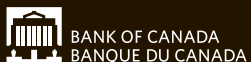
While it might be more comfortable to sleep through a colonoscopy, the side effects of the sedation amount to more than just grogginess. Scan the code for the story.



On the web

Quake ignites memories

A 7.4-magnitude quake shook central and southern Mexico yesterday, reminding some of the bitter memories of the 1985 quake that killed hundreds. For videos, reactions and the science behind the quake, visit metronews.ca



À LA CARTE

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6 January to 8 April

The Currency Museum does credit to the credit card. *À La Carte* is a new exhibition that explores the evolution of credit as currency.

FREE ADMISSION

National Arts Centre. Women take centre stage

Peter Hinton thought it was time to correct “gender inequity” on the stage, so he chose a lineup of plays by women for the National Art Centre’s 2012-13 season.

It will be his last season as artistic director of English theatre and the plays are a final statement of sorts.

“It’s a way of putting out a charge of what I believe in and what I stand for,” he said.

A disproportionate number of plays produced are by men, perhaps because most artistic directors are men or because the “fragile economy” of the theatre inadvertently penalizes women, he said.

“There’s still an old boys’ club in many respects, but

Highlights of 2012-13

- **Glace Bay Miners’ Museum.** By Wendy Lill
- **Innocence Lost: A Play About Steven Truscott.** By Beverley Cooper
- **thirsty.** By Dionne Brand
- **Tulugak: Inuit Raven Stories.** Directed by Sylvia Cloutier

there are such great women playwrights in Canada and the world, so it wasn’t a hard thing to do. It was a necessary, exciting and fun thing to do.”

JESSICA SMITH/METRO

Serial murder case

Accused killer heading to trial

Accused serial killer Camille Cleroux consented Tuesday to stand trial on three counts of first-degree murder. Trial dates will be set in early May.

JESSICA SMITH/METRO

Speed zone

Cop charged with stunt driving

Police officer Yannik Bernard has been charged with stunt driving and assigned to administrative duties after he was caught off-duty driving a motorcycle at 202 km/h in a 100 zone. **METRO**

The good, the bad and the ugly of Ottawa



Parked cars and streetcars jam Sparks Street circa 1950. Historian David Gordon talks about how Ottawa evolved on Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church, 120 Lisgar St.

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA/PA-165231

Urban planning.

Historian talks about missed opportunities and bad planning in National Capital

GRAHAM LANKTREE
Metro

Ottawa’s Chaudière Falls once rivalled the beauty of Niagara Falls, the city planned to build a railway under Wellington Street and Parliament Hill once smelled like rotten eggs, says renowned capital planning historian and former Ottawa resident David Gordon.

Wednesday night, Gordon,

Quotable

“When Ottawa was being planned, it wasn’t a capital city yet, and it was a pretty rude place until after the Second World War.”

David Gordon

director of the Queen’s University School of Urban and Regional Planning, will reveal these stories and more at a talk offering a historical tour through the best and worst urban plans for our National Capital.

“This is the result of 16 years of research in the national and Ottawa archives,” said Gordon, who plans to publish his work as a book with University of Toronto Press next year and calls the city’s transit system the “best bus system in North America.”

Other highlights of past planning include the decision to keep the market building after it burned down in 1957, and removing the E.B. Eddy sulphate mill across from Parliament Hill, which took care of the smell of eggs that wafted from the river.

On the ugly side of things, Gordon plans to touch on the poor design of the city’s first water-treatment plant, which caused two typhoid outbreaks after clean water was mixed with raw sewage.

“It made Walkerton look like good public policy”

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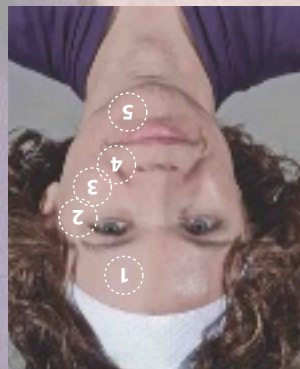
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Should an employer be your 'friend'?



Robert Collins of Baltimore was asked for his Facebook login and password during an interview for a job as a security guard.

STEVE RUARK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Social media. Some companies and government agencies are asking applicants for access to their Facebook accounts

In their efforts to vet job applicants, some companies and U.S. government agencies are going beyond merely glancing at a person's social-networking profiles and instead are asking to log in as the user to have a look around.

Questions have been raised about the legality of the practice, which is the

Privacy concerns

"It's akin to requiring someone's house keys.... (It's) an egregious privacy violation."

Orin Kerr, law professor
George Washington University

focus of proposed legislation in Illinois and Maryland that would forbid public agencies from asking for access to social networks.

Since the rise of social networking, it has become common for managers to review publicly available Facebook profiles, Twitter accounts and other sites to learn more about job candidates. But many users, especially on Fa-

cebook, have their profiles set to private, making them available only to selected people or certain networks.

Companies that don't ask for passwords have taken other steps — such as asking applicants to friend human-resource managers or to log in to a company computer during an interview.

Asking for a candidate's password is more prevalent

among public agencies, especially those seeking to fill law-enforcement positions such as police officers.

Back in 2010, Robert Collins was returning to his job as a security guard at the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services after taking a leave following his mother's death. During a reinstatement interview, he was asked for his login and password, purportedly so the agency could check for any gang affiliations. He was stunned by the request but complied.

"I needed my job to feed my family. I had to," he recalled.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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TESTIMONIAL - *Thank you so much!* "My fiancée and I had always thought that we were relatively healthy at 47 years of age and had fairly decent eating habits in that we were conscious of what we put into our bodies - fresh fruit and veggies, as little processed meats, white flour, sugar, salt, etc. but over the last 6 months or so we were beginning to feel sluggish and that our age was finally catching up to us - very rapidly. We searched the internet and narrowed our search to CleanseSMART's 30 day cleanse. We are very happy to report that after only five days both of us felt an amazing change in our bodies - lighter, healthier and more energized! Thank you so very much for your expertise in formulating this cleanse." - 2008-01-16

Rapid Cleanse

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TESTIMONIAL - *Excellent!* "I tried this because I was feeling sluggish with achy muscles, I now have more energy than I have had in a long time. Excellent product! I will likely try the 30 day CleanseSMART cleanse when I have the time but for a quick feel good solution this is the answer." - 2009-09-15

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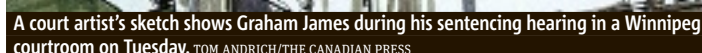
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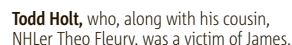
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Graham James gets two years. Talk shows and Twitter aflame as hated hockey coach is sent to jail for hundreds of sex assaults on two players

"Goodbye, you piece of (expletive)," the man said.

"Graham James is laughing all the way back to the life he has always led, knowing that justice for him is but a blip on the radar."



THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Buildings swayed. Some 800 homes were damaged. A pedestrian bridge collapsed on an empty transit bus.

"It's a very active zone," said Stanford University geophysicist Greg Beroza.



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Model legislation. Israeli law bans underweight women in advertising

Told she was too fat to be a model, Danielle Segal shed a quarter of her original 116-pound weight and was hospitalized twice for malnutrition. The girl weighed 88 pounds by then, or about as much as a robust pre-teen, and her health suffered.

Now that a new Israeli law prohibits the employment of underweight models, the 19-year-old must gain some of it back if she wants to work again.

The legislation aims to put a stop to the extremes, and by extension ease the pressure on youngsters to emulate the skin-and-bones models, often resulting in dangerous eating disorders.

The new law poses a groundbreaking challenge to a fashion industry widely castigated for promoting anorexia and bulimia. Its sponsors say it could become an example for other countries grappling with the spread of the life-threatening disorders.

The law requires models to produce a medical report no more than three months old at every shoot for the Israeli market, stating that they are not malnourished, according to World Health Organization standards.

About two per cent of teenage Israeli girls have severe eating disorders, experts said. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



A man walks past an ad featuring models in Tel Aviv.
ODED BALILTY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Labour laws. Air Canada unions challenge stay-at-work legislation

Two of Air Canada's largest employee groups are launching constitutional challenges against federal legislation that prevents a strike or lockout at the country's largest carrier.

The union representing pilots said Tuesday that it filed suit in Ontario Superior Court, while the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers added it will soon pursue its own effort.

Both groups, which together represent more than 11,000 airline employees, are the last group of workers without updated collective agreements.

The pilots said the law passed last week forces them to fly and accept a contract imposed by arbitration in contravention of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"The legislation was draconian overkill," Capt. Paul Strachan, president of the Air Canada Pilots Association, said in an interview.

Neither side was able to strike or lock out workers once Labour Minister Lisa Raitt referred the matter to the Canada Industrial Relations Board.

The pilots said the Pro-

Secret report

- The Department of Human Resources and Skills Development advised the governing Conservatives in a secret report to use back-to-work legislation only sparingly after Air Canada's customer-service and sales staff walked out last June.
- In the July 21 report obtained by The Canadian Press, senior officials urged the Tories to save the law for emergencies.
- The bureaucrats were not convinced the walkout constituted anything more than a nuisance to air travellers.

tecting Air Service Act prohibits pilots from exercising their right to strike and contravenes three sections of the charter.

"We believe there's jurisprudence to support our position and we'll take it as far as we have to," Strachan said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Company closure

2,600 out of work in Aveos liquidation

Aveos Fleet Performance is liquidating its Canadian aircraft-maintenance business, putting virtually all of the company's 2,600 employees across the country out of work.

The Montreal-based private company said Tuesday that it would immediately cease all operations after getting permission for the move in Quebec Superior Court.

The company let go of its remaining 1,300 employees after 1,175 workers were put out of a job on Sunday

when Aveos decided to close its airframe-repair business.

About 160 employees will remain to oversee the liquidation process.

"The company had no viable option but to cease operations," said chairman Eugene Davis.

Neither company nor union officials could provide details regarding the employees' access to severance payments or the impact on their pensions.

The Quebec government says its Justice Department lawyers are assessing the grounds for a lawsuit aimed at forcing Air Canada to continue using Aveos, which has plants in a number of Canadian cities.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Moment



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(-0.44¢)

TSX
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OIL
\$105.61 US (-\$2.48)

GOLD
\$1,647 US (-\$20.30)

Natural gas: \$2.335 US (-1.6¢)
Dow Jones: 13,170.19 (-68.94)

Walmart guilty in workplace death

Walmart says it has pleaded guilty to three workplace safety charges in the death of a teenage worker in New Brunswick last year.

The retail giant was charged under the Occupational Health and Safety Act after a 17-year-old employee at a store in Grand Falls was electrocuted on Jan. 5, 2011.

Patrick Desjardins was using a floor buffer on a wet floor in a garage at the time.

Crown attorney Karen

Lee Lamrock says Denis Morin, who was a supervisor at the store, also pleaded guilty to two charges under the act.

She says Walmart was fined \$120,000 and Morin \$1,056.

WorkSafeNB, the Crown agency responsible for the act, has said Desjardins was using an inappropriate floor polisher and a faulty extension cord when he died.

The company says in a statement released Tuesday

that it co-operated fully with the investigation and has brought in changes to prevent similar accidents from happening.

WorkSafeNB has said the polisher Desjardins was using hadn't been inspected and was in poor working condition.

The agency issued several orders against Walmart after the death and it says the company has complied with those orders.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SCARY LIT RAISES SPECTRE OF GORE-STOKED GENERATION



JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/justsaying

Now that my own children are grown and there's nothing I can do about them, it's time to start worrying about the next generation.

After all, they're the ones who are going to find me in my single room buried under mouldy Starbucks venti lattes and ship me off to the state geezer preserve.

And if what they're up to right now is any indication, I have no reason to expect compassion.

I started thinking about the next generation after hearing that Judy Blume's novels are about to be turned into ebooks. And publishers are worried that today's kids, raised on a steady diet of vampires, human sacrifice and Grand Theft Auto, will find her books bland and boring.

This was once the most banned author in North America, whose most banned book (Forever) opened with the following line: "Sybil Davison has a genius I.Q. and has been laid by at least six different guys."

'Blood and sacrifice'

"These days, you have to add blood and sacrifice for kids to stop sexting and virtually stoning each other on Am I Ugly and read instead."

That got you banned in 1975, but these days it's so tame that even the censors can't work up enough jam to read it, even if they can download it instantly.

These days, you have to add blood and sacrifice for kids to stop sexting and virtually stoning each other on Am I Ugly and read instead. The average teenager sends 60 text messages a day and spends more than seven hours a day "using"

media, 80 per cent of it social media.

When Judy Blume was freaking out parents and librarians, there was no Internet. You had to look into a mirror to find out if you were ugly. Now you post a photo on the Internet and let the world have its way with you.

So what are we raising? Pretty little bloodthirsty, depraved, techno-robotic, Borg-minded, crypto-fascist, superstitious sociopaths? Maybe.

At least they can help you unlock your cellphone.

When my kids were young, the biggest threat to their mental health was V.C. Andrews, who dealt in incest and various forms of abuse. Plus she was a terrible writer. By comparison, Judy Blume was Shakespeare. Of course, nobody reads him anymore either, not as long as we have Suzanne Collins (The Hunger Games) or Stephanie Meyer (Twilight).

Today, "writing" is a kind of delivery mechanism, like a syringe or a hand-held rocket launcher. Ideas are no longer than 140 characters and something gets killed at the end.

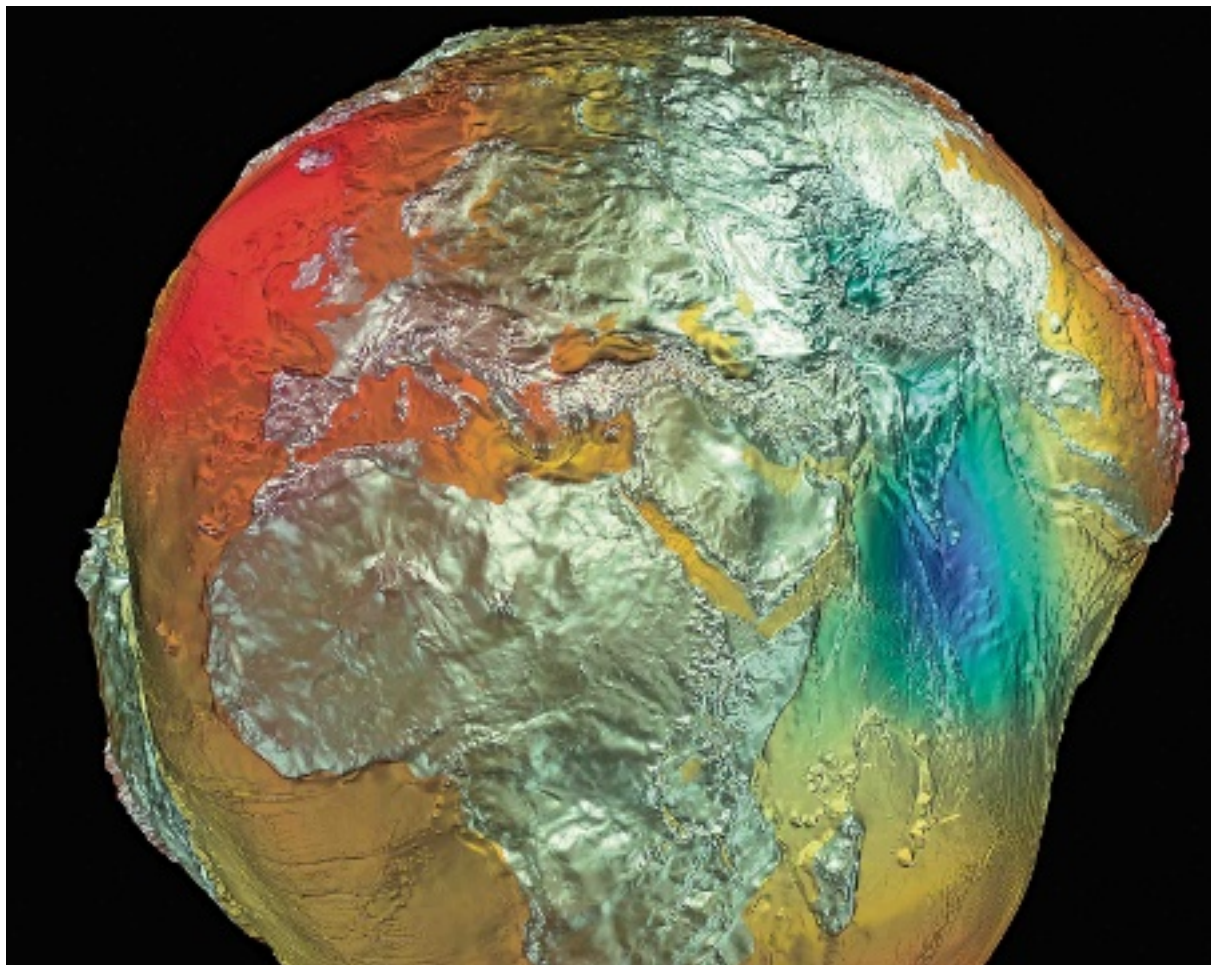
For those who still remember, it's like Brave New World meets Lord of the Flies.

With zombies.



Jennifer Lawrence portrays Katniss Everdeen in a scene from The Hunger Games based on Suzanne Collins' novel. MURRAY CLOSE/LIONSGATE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Planet 'potato' down to earth



GFZ GERMAN RESEARCH CENTRE FOR GEOSCIENCES

3-D mapping

Map shows how Earth changes

For most of us, our planet is spherical in shape, but for some German geoscientists tracking planetary changes, it looks like a potato. Based on data from NASA satellites, the "Potsdam Gravity Potato" is a 3-D mapping that reveals how melting ice has changed Earth's gravity. **MWN**

Gravity field

"When the mass of Greenland's ice sheet changes, so does the gravity there. Gravity field measurements give us information on mass changes, including climate-related ones."

Frank Flechtner, expert from GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences

Geoscience

'Potato' based on Newton's law

"This is not a gimmick," the Potsdam-based scientists say. The "Gravity Potato," first developed in 1995, is based on one of Newton's laws that states an object's gravity depends on its mass. Earth's uneven distribution of mass means varying gravitational pull on the surface. **MWN**

This year's 'potato'

The bulge rises in Japan

- The bulge in Far East Asia shows the dramatic changes in solid earth as a result of Japan's earthquakes in 2011.

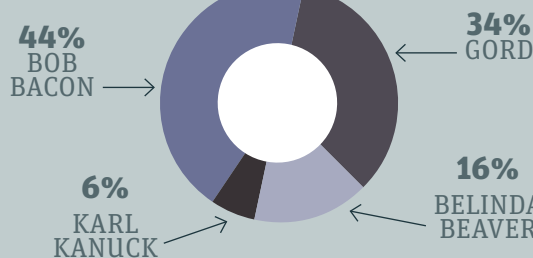
Loss of ice mass = sea rise

- Greenland's ice shield had 240 gigatons of mass loss between 2002 and 2011, corresponding to a sea level rise of 0.7 mm per year.



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If you were to get a cellphone under a fake name, what would it be?



Twitter

@iamnuhkayluh

Yea Twitter will ruin a relationship. But it only exposes the truth! It don't lie

@chuktastic

25 degree weather in March. This calls for an emergency spray-tan. Be gone, pasty winter white!

@queen_b2009

When I was a kid, I taped place-mats 2 my arms and jumped off the kitchen table trying 2 fly, so I found this inspiring: <http://t.co/L37zMU4>

@phdinparenting

I have no clue what Hunger Games is about, have never read/seen Harry Potter, Buffy, or Twilight. And I'm okay with that.

@turniptruk

@phdinparenting whoa! I thought I was the only one! I've not done Lord of Rings movies/books either!

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@turniptruk I read The Hobbit in Grade 6. Required reading.



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2

SCENE

Virgin space travellers

Kutcher signs up

Richard Branson says his venture to launch paying tourists into space has netted its 500th customer, and it's none other than Ashton Kutcher. Branson made the announcement on his blog Monday. He called the actor to congratulate him and said Kutcher is thrilled at the prospect of being among the first to cross "the final frontier" aboard Virgin Galactic.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



On the web



Kevin Costner's lawyers tell SD high court actor did not breach contract with sculpture artist

'Not your everyday villain'



Alexander Ludwig is photographed by fans as he arrives on the red carpet for the premiere of *The Hunger Games* on Monday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Golden boy. New on the scene, Alexander Ludwig says fans don't mind he plays a trained killer in *The Hunger Games*

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

At six-feet, two-inches with all-American good looks (even though he was born in Vancouver), Alexander Ludwig doesn't look like a super villain. But to fans of *The Hunger Games* he is the baddest baddie of them all, Cato, the brute from *District 2*.

"He was born and raised

a killer and that's all he knew how to do," says the 20-year-old actor.

"But he's not your everyday villain. There's a lot more substance and depth to this guy. You can tell he's had a tortured life."

Trained as a killer, Cato has spent his whole life preparing for his turn in *The Hunger Games*, a kind of murderous reality show.

"I'm playing the most feared guy in the arena so I didn't know how I was going to be received by everyone else in the cast," he says of his co-stars Jennifer Lawrence and Josh Hutcherson. "I was cautious about it, but everyone was amazing."

One thing is for sure; he made an impression on one stunt man.

"I hit a stunt guy across the face with the butt end of a rubber bat when I was filming," he says, "but once you do that you have keep going because they're going to kick your ass if you don't. 'What are you doing? That was the perfect sell because you actually hit me.' I felt so bad."

He says that despite the movie's dark subject matter and the odd bruised stunt man, the mood on set was light.

"It is important to have contrast when the material is so dark. There's all this tense energy and right after they yell, 'Cut' you can breathe."

He's also breathing a little easier now the movie is done and fans have em-

If looks could kill

"Everyone's been very excited to see me and meet me. No one has said, 'Screw you, Cato!' I hope it stays like this. Everyone likes being liked and I chose this role knowing that it could go the other way."

Actor Alexander Ludwig, on playing the evil Cato in *The Hunger Games*.

braced him.

"I have been so, so happy about the way I have been received because it could go either way," he says.

"Everyone's been very excited to see me and meet me. No one has said, 'Screw you, Cato!' I hope it stays like this. Everyone likes being liked and I chose this role knowing that it could

go the other way."

"I'm just riding this crazy experience. You really can't think about it because you don't know what to expect. Every day is a new experience."

I walked out of my hotel room this morning and there were fans outside. I can't believe this is happening to me. It's wild."

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'Every man for himself' makes for great films

Hungry for blood.

Why do we love movies about people forced to hunt and kill each other?



IN

FOCUS

Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

If you've read *The Hunger Games* novels, you're likely excited about the big screen adaptation hitting theatres this Friday. The story of a dystopian world where children killing children is a national pastime — think *American Idol*, only with knives — was a mega-hit in book stores and promises to pack theatres.

But if the movie lineups are enough to keep you away from the theatre on Saturday night, here are some similar themed movies to get you in the mood.

Battle Royale is the ultra-violent Japanese cousin to *The Hunger Games*. The movie is a futuristic nightmare about a group of kids who are shipped off to a remote island and forced to wage war against

one another until only one remains.

The film's bloody conflict enraged the Japanese censors who tried to ban the movie, but their plan backfired.

Slapping a tough R15 rating on the film only increased people's desire to see it. "Because it was forbidden," says director Kinji Fukasaku, "they wanted to watch it even more."

Also breathing the same air is *Series 7: The Contenders*, a parody of reality television where contestants hunt down and murder one another.

This gory satire won a passing grade from Roger Ebert who said, "It's not the idea that people will kill each other for entertainment that makes *Series 7* jolting. What the movie correctly perceives is that somewhere along the line we've lost all sense of shame in our society."

The idea of televising human blood sports isn't new to the reality TV era, however. Years before *Survivor* made the phrase, "You've been voted off the island" a household term, Steven King and Arnold Schwarzenegger unleashed *The Running Man* on audiences.

Arnold plays a wrongly convicted man fighting for his

survival on a TV game show, overseen by Family Feud host Richard Dawson.

"I'll be back!" Arnold says, mimicking his Terminator catchphrase. "Only in a rerun," says Dawson, who hopes Arnold bites it and gives the show a spike in ratings.

Finally, director Norman Jewison imagined a theme similar to *The Hunger Games* in his 1975 film *Rollerball*. Set in 2018, it's about a deadly sport that combines roller derby, hockey, football and a generous helping of violence. The movie's style seems a bit dated but the ideas aren't. Jewison's prophetic take on violence, the influence of corporations and the state of entertainment are bang on.

On The Hunger Games

"The story of a dystopian world where children killing children is a national pastime — think *American Idol*, only with knives — was a mega-hit in book stores and promises to pack theatres."

Richard Crouse



Elizabeth Banks, left, and Jennifer Lawrence star in *The Hunger Games*. HANDOUT

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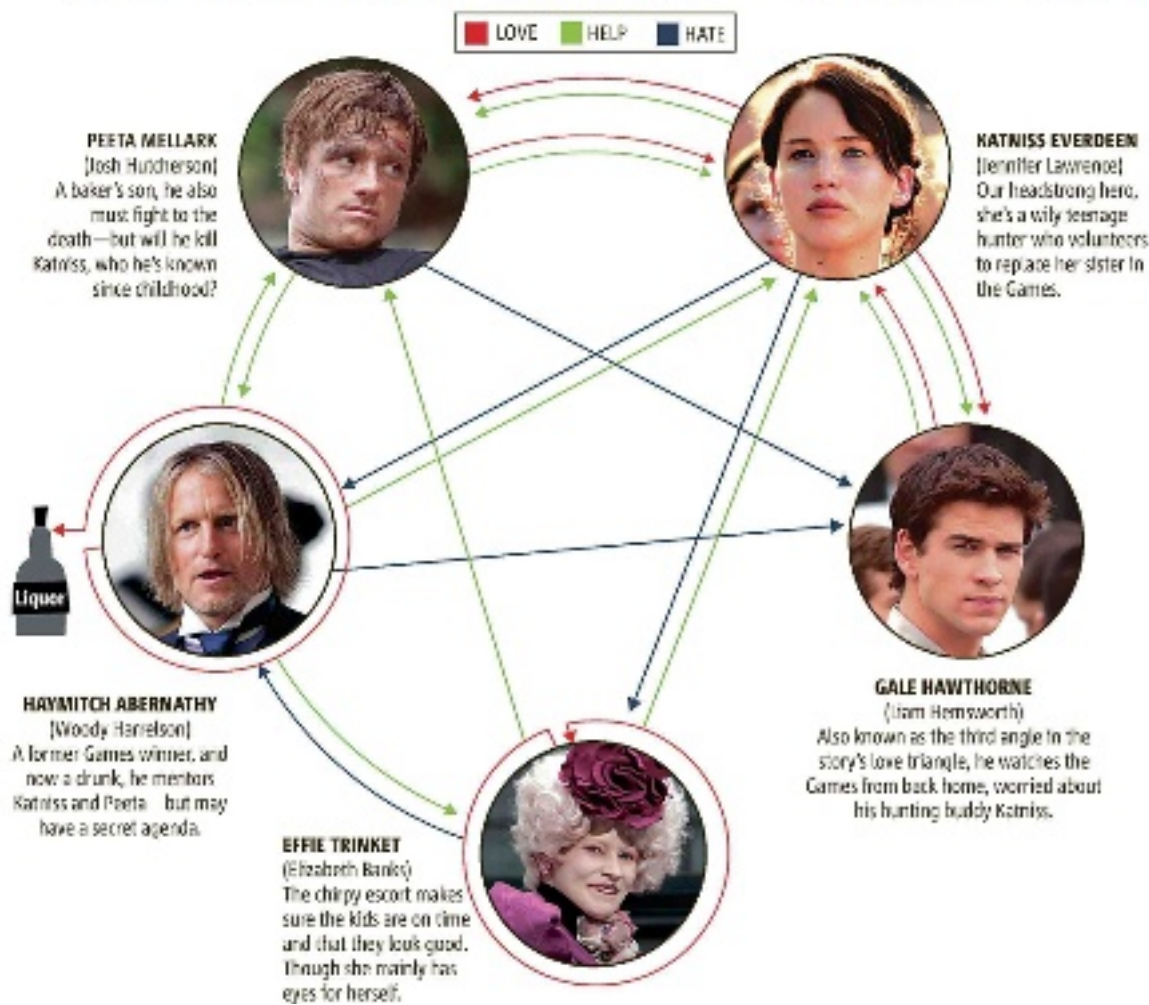
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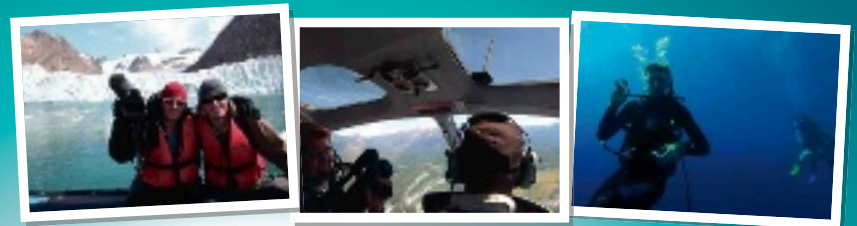
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Reigning king of laughter goes Latin

Ferrell fever. The SNL stars speaks to Metro about becoming a man, Burgundy and, of course, his bum

MEREDITH ENGEL

Metro World News in Hollywood

For the duration of his new

movie, *Casa de Mi Padre*, Will Ferrell speaks only in Spanish — the entire movie is subtitled. Fittingly clad in a powder blue country Western shirt (“It’s got a little bit of a Dallas Cowboy cheerleader feel to it,” he says), he spoke with us about his career, his kids and his famous rear end.

You have a nude scene in this film, and this is the

second time that you’re showing moviegoers your butt. What is it about your tush that you think audiences can’t get enough of? Honestly, I just was serving the script, No. 1. But No. 2, I think it’s a funny-looking butt. It’s a comedy butt. It was just a great opportunity to make fun of the stereotypical passion scene.

Also, on a deeper level, we’re so body-image con-

scious — why not show that we all have normal-looking bodies?

It’s kind of a way to just go, it’s not that big a deal.

Your character, Armando, steps out of the shadows and finds his machismo in this film. Can you pinpoint a time in your life when you really came into your own?

I think if you’re doing com-

edy, I don’t know if you ever really reach that feeling of like, “I’ve got it down.”

I think there’s always a place of fear within you where you’re like, “God, I hope this works.”

Getting on Saturday Night Live maybe was a little moment of that, but then you have to prove yourself on Saturday Night Live.

Then you leave the show and you test your waters in the movie world, and this business is getting harder and harder.

This movie is being described as *Anchorman*-meets-telenovela. How would Ron Burgundy fare in this world?

Probably horribly, because

Funny fanny

“I think it’s a funny-looking butt. It’s a comedy butt. It was just a great opportunity to make fun of the stereotypical passion scene.”

Will Ferrell regarding his rear end, displayed in a love scene in *Casa de Mi Padre*.

there’s no way Burgundy knows any other languages.

He’d pretend that he knows Spanish and just immediately get in some awkward, horrible, compromising position where he gets shot.

Yeah, I don’t think he’d do well.

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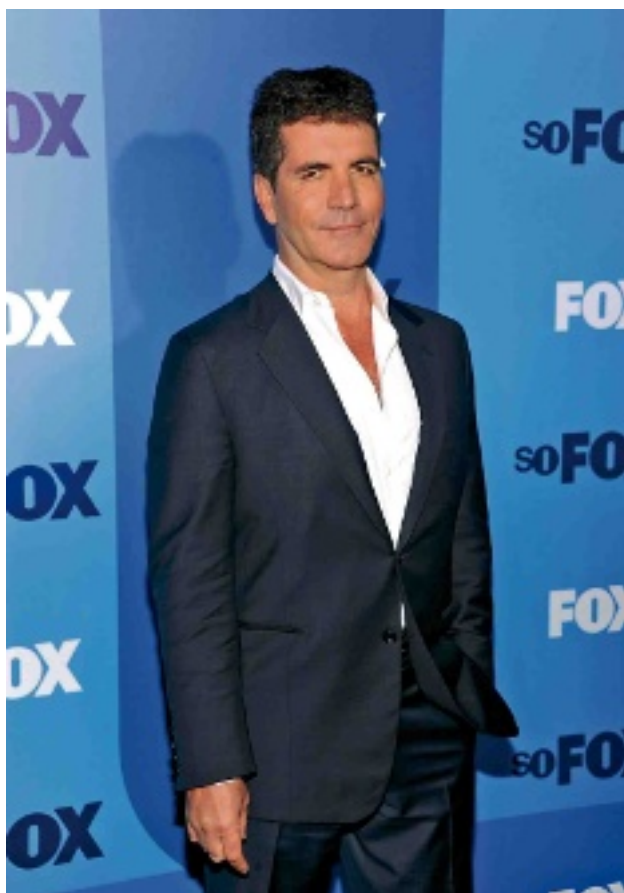
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Will Ferrell, left, as Armando Alvarez in *Casa de Mi Padre* HANDOUT



Simon Cowell

Cowell considering killing off X Factor if ratings continue to dip

Despite all the rumors about negotiating with Britney Spears to come on board as a judge, Simon Cowell may have altogether different plans for the U.S. edition of the X Factor — and they involve cancelling the show altogether.

"I'd rather fall off the cliff on numbers than deteriorate slowly," Cowell said at a press conference for the launch of another

Quote

"I'd rather fall off the cliff on numbers than deteriorate slowly."

Simon Cowell speaking about X-Factor's ratings.

season of Britain's Got Talent.

"We have something in development, which could replace The X Factor."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Is Kim Zolciak jacking Jessica Simpson's swagger?



THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Kim Zolciak must be getting tired of Jessica Simpson stealing the blond-weave-wearing-pregnant-lady spotlight, as it was announced yesterday that she and husband Kroy Biermann, 26, are wasting no time expanding their family. After giving birth to their son, Kroy Jagger (KJ) Jr., last May, Life & Style is exclusively reporting that the couple is expecting their second

baby.

"Kroy and I are so excited," Kim, 33, tells the magazine. "To decide we wanted to get pregnant again and have it happen so quickly was such a blessing."

I'd go all conspiracy theorist on you and say Kim and Kroy (ed note: What the hell kind of name is "Kroy"? Is that a mash-up of "Kyle" and "Troy"?) are just now revealing this news to bring attention to the TV special about their lavish November wedding. Don't Be Tardy for the Wedding, which premieres on April 26 at 9 p.m. on Bravo.

But, come on: anyone who films their wedding for reality TV and then calls it Don't Be Tardy for the Wedding will of course try to capitalize off of a pregnancy.

There's no conspiracy about it.



Goldie Hawn

Goldie Hawn denies saying Hudson married rock star boyfriend

Goldie Hawn set off a rash of speculation that daughter Kate Hudson had already secretly wed fiancé Matt Bellamy when she told ES magazine,

"When my daughter Kate married an English rock star it didn't worry me."

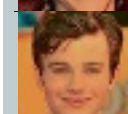
But Hawn doesn't stand by the quote. When a Twitter follower asked her, "So are Kate and Matt really married, or are the press twisting your words?" Hawn responded, "Darling, once again twisted the words. They aren't married."

Twitter



@kathygriffin

Larry the dog got out & was missing ALL DAY! Got a call & WHO rescued him? @KalPenn! #Random #grateful



@chriscolfer

My goldfish have love handles. I may be over feeding them...



@diablo Cody

Currently watching a dad TIE his daughter to a piece of playground equipment so she can't fall off. He's using police tape, which makes it extra weird.



@AlbertBrooks

If it walks like a duck, looks like a duck, quacks like a duck, it still could be a chicken doing impressions.

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LIFE

Travel in brief

No free music at festival

After three years of financial losses, the showcase summer festival Taste of Chicago will start charging music fans if they want concert seats. Taste of Chicago performances at the 3,000-seat Petrillo Music Shell in Grant Park had been free, but the city wants to charge \$25 a ticket this year, Mayor Rahm Emanuel said Wednesday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

On the Web



Edgar Degas' Impressionism stripped bare in Paris: forget dancers, this time it's nudes

Exhibit helps MythBusters take their show on the road

Museum. Discovery Channel program creates a science-based exhibit at a museum in Chicago, with plans to tour the showcase

If you go...

- **Mythbusters.** Through Sept. 3 at Museum of Science and Industry, 57th Street and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago; msichicago.org or 773-684-1414. Open daily 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Timed ticketing; adults, \$25, children 3-11, \$18 (general admission plus \$10).

Who gets wetter, someone walking in the rain or running? Is it really possible to hang from a cliff by your fingers until help arrives like they do in the movies? And is Superman the only one who is faster than a speeding bullet?

Those are questions the Discovery Channel's MythBusters has asked for years, and starting last week, anybody who's wondered how long it takes to put on a superhero outfit in a phone booth — don't forget the cape — can answer them for themselves at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry.

MythBusters: The Explosive Exhibition, opened March 15, marking the first time the show has taken such questions on the road. The Chicago exhibition, which runs through Sept. 3, is the first of a planned national tour that will include stops at several other U.S. cities.

"This has both the science and also a sense of humour, what we've been doing for a decade," Adam Savage, one of the show's hosts, said this week before the exhibition opened.

Just like on the show, the exhibit is a kind of scientific bait and switch. It starts with something visitors have seen in the movies or on TV or that they can recall from their own experiences.

"That's the hook," said Jamie Hyneman, also a MythBusters co-host. "That gets them involved and before

they know what happens they've actually learned something or been lured into thinking carefully about what's going on."

The exhibit consists of about a dozen stations mixed in with props familiar to viewers, like the actual casket Hyneman lay in for a segment on being buried alive. In one station shaped like a ship cargo container, a visitor walks and another runs while water drips from hoses above. Once they're wet, they go around the corner and, because the water contains traces of fluorescent dye, they can see just how many drops hit them as they stand in front of a black light.

After determining which one of them is wetter, the participants press either the run or walk button. The results will be stored for now and revealed when the show leaves in September.

There is another exhibit for anyone who's wondered if a blind Al Pacino really could have navigated a car through the streets of New York in Scent of a Woman based on the directions given by a terrified Chris O'Donnell from the passenger seat. With the help of video-arcade style equipment, visitors can see if they do as well as Pacino or better than Hyneman and Savage did on the show.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Jamie Hyneman, left, and Adam Savage, stars of Mythbusters, stand outside the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. J.B. SPECTOR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



From left, how fast can a person put on a superhero outfit in a phone booth? The Mythbusters open the exhibit in Chicago last week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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The bite-sized San Francisco

Food trucks are a big deal in San Francisco, so we got Kate McEachern, founder of local cupcake truck Cupkates, to talk us through her city's hot spots

METRO WORLD NEWS



First time?

For those that usually ignore the clichéd recommendations in travel guides, play the tourist for once. San Francisco has some amazing attractions and you don't want to miss them. Your first stop should be Fort Point. Its vantage point overlooking Golden Gate Bridge offers amazing views.

Been there before?

Once you've seen all of the staple tourist spots, I'd recommend a trip to Golden Gate Park (golden-gate-park.com). Go for tea at the Japanese Tea House and Garden or simply walk around the gardens. The California Academy of Sciences (calacademy.org), one of the world's largest natural history museums, is a fun daytime outing whether you're with family or friends. I always head straight to the living roof. Designed by architect Renzo Piano, the roof consists of undulating green hillocks and 1.7 million native plants, mimicking the city's topography.



Go out

If you want a chilled but fun Friday night out then head over to the De Young Museum (deyoung.famsf.org). It stays open late, keeping people entertained with the bar and live music. Bubble Lounge champagne bar (bubblelounge.com) is perfect for a girls' night out. Although, by no means does this mean boys aren't allowed to join the party.



Stay in

For those on a budget, Hotel des Arts, located in the French Quarter, is an eclectic boutique close to Union Square, perfect if you had a day of shopping planned (sfhotel-desarts.com). If you have a bit more to spend, in the mid-range price is Hotel Del Sol. This is a joyful-kid friendly place to stay.






Eat

Some of the city's best food comes from a truck. Off the Grid (offthegridsf.com) is a bustling roving market with gourmet food trucks selling anything from my cupcakes to 'eat curbside's' deep fried Mac n Cheese. On Friday nights, the Fort Mason market has a bar and music, making it a really great (and super cheap!) way to spend the evening. Nick's Crispy

Tacos (at 1500 Broadway) makes the most amazing fried fish pescado tacos (ask for them made "Nick's Way") and carnitas (braised pork) in town. If you're craving pizza, there's no other place than Una Pizza Napoletana (unapizza.com/sf). The place is small and the owner Anthony Mangieri makes pizza to order using an oven placed in the middle of the dining room.

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Start spring off on a sweet note with treats for the big & little kids

Chocolate Mango Mousse. This easy, do-ahead dessert is a great way to incorporate chocolate without over indulging

Because this is a chilled dessert, you can make it ahead of time and not worry about things coming out of the oven at the right time when you're busy trying to impress those picky dinner guests.

To make it into a restaurant-worthy dish, spoon the Chocolate Mango Mousse

into parfait glasses and top with fresh berries.

The combination of chocolate and fruit creates an ideal balance for those who want a more grown-up dessert.

1 Fill a medium bowl with ice.

2 In a blender, combine the thawed mango chunks, sugar, milk, whole egg and yolk, and cornstarch. Purée until completely it is smooth.

3 Pour the mixture into a small saucepan over medium heat. Whisking constantly, heat the mixture until it thickens and

comes to a boil. Remove from heat and add the milk chocolate bits. Stir until the chocolate is melted and thoroughly incorporated.

4 Place the saucepan in a bowl of ice; ensure that none of the ice gets into the saucepan. Whisk the mixture until it is completely cooled and smooth.

5 In a large bowl, place the heavy cream. Use an electric mixer to beat it until medium peaks form, 3 to 5 minutes.

6 Add half of the beaten cream to the milk chocolate-mango mixture and fold together to incorporate. Add remaining cream and fold again to incorporate.

7 Transfer the Chocolate Mango Mousse to 4 individual serving dishes and refrigerate until you are ready to serve it.

Chocolate Mango Mousse



The chocolate flavours aren't overpowering. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

4 portions
Start to finish: 30 minutes, plus chilling

- 250 ml (1 cup) frozen mango chunks, thawed
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) sugar

- 125 ml (1/2 cup) homogenized milk
- 1 whole egg, plus 1 yolk
- 22 ml (1 1/2 tbsp) cornstarch
- 150 ml (2/3 cup) milk chocolate bits
- 250 ml (1 cup) heavy cream

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drink of the Week

Chocolate Seduction

Chocolate and vodka combine to make a romantic cocktail that is pure magic.

Seduce your lover or your favourite foodie with this special drink.

1 Combine vodka, coffee, nut and chocolate liqueurs in a shaker with ice. Shake and strain into two cocktail glasses. Top with chocolate. Makes 2 servings.

- 2 oz vodka
- 1 oz coffee liqueur
- 1 oz nut liqueur (such as Frangelico or Amaretto)
- 1 oz chocolate liqueur
- Grated bittersweet chocolate

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Ontario



Caramelized apples star in creamy frozen yogurt dessert



This recipe serves eight. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Bring out the kid in all of us and enjoy a sundae with family and friends. This easy make-ahead caramel apple sundae is perfect to end your next meal.

A creamy-sweet combination of caramelized apples and vanilla frozen yogurt topped with crunchy granola offers the perfect combination of ingredients.

Top this frozen treat with fresh whipped cream and a sprinkle of cinnamon for a truly decadent dessert.

1 In a large bowl, toss apples with lemon juice; set aside.

2 In a large heavy skillet over medium-high heat, melt butter. Add sugar and stir until it has completely dissolved and is dark amber in colour. Add apples with their juices and reduce heat to low.

3 Cook, stirring often, about 10 minutes or until apples are softened. Stir in cream and vanilla; transfer to a large bowl. Let cool, cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour or until chilled and thickened. (Keep it refrigerated for up to 2 days.)

4 To assemble: For each serving, place 2 caramelized apples wedges in a sundae glass. Top with a scoop of frozen yogurt, 2 caramelized apple wedges and some granola. Repeat frozen yogurt, apple and granola layers. Top with additional whipped cream and a sprinkle of cinnamon, if desired.

ONTARIO APPLE GROWERS, ON-APPLES.COM/ THE CANADIAN PRESS/
ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS
(PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR, AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE VISIT, EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)

Ingredients

- 3 apples (McIntosh or Spy), peeled cored and each cut into 12 wedges
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) lemon juice
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) butter
- 500 ml (2 cups) granulate sugar
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) 35% whipping cream
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) vanilla
- 1.5 L (6 cups) vanilla frozen yogurt or vanilla ice cream
- 250 ml (1 cup) crunchy granola
- Ground cinnamon (optional)

Nation-to-nation navigation: Interviews across the pond

East to West. Keep cultural differences in mind during a job interview abroad

LIN ABDUL RAHMAN
Talentegg.ca

Do you remember the AT&T commercial where a man insults his Chinese business associate when he mispronounces the associate's name?

The commercial highlights the importance of clarity and precision in communication, and it also underscores the cultural nuances that we encounter at our increasingly global workplaces. These situations may seem funny in retrospect, but if they're not handled properly they may have serious consequences not only for the employee but for the company as well.

And these cultural distinctions extend far beyond the spoken language. I've had work experience in several culturally distinct countries and I can safely say the attitudes employers expect to see in a candidate also vary greatly from one country to another.

In Malaysia — a country heavily influenced by its Eastern morals and values — modesty, respect and courtesy are some of the characteristics candidates are expected to possess and display. This is not to say that employers in Western countries do not appreciate



Canadian employers often value confidence in a potential hire. ISTOCK

A world of difference

"In Malaysia — a country heavily influenced by its Eastern morals and values — modesty, respect and courtesy are some of the characteristics candidates are expected to possess and display."

Lin Abdul Rahman, student at Laurier Brantford

such values — quite the contrary.

However, in Malaysian culture, reverence and respect for elders, and by extension those higher up in the social hierarchy, are expected virtues in any individual. These qualities are therefore crucial in dealing with clients and associates.

As a result, candidates are expected to demonstrate these values during the interview process at great lengths, and then some.

Along the same vein, can-

didates are also expected to acknowledge an organization's inherent hierarchy, be it a formal or informal one. Of course, it goes without saying that falling in line is expected in any company anywhere on the globe. As the saying goes, 'You have to go along in order to get along.'

However, in Malaysia, it's crucial that a candidate displays a certain readiness, or even an eagerness, to fit into the existing pecking order. It might seem superficial or per-

haps somewhat trivial, but it's crucial nonetheless as it is seen as a manifestation of the candidate's respect toward his or her superiors.

From the job interviews I've had in Australia and Canada — not all of them successful, naturally — I've found that ambition, confidence and being proactive are highly regarded by employers. These qualities are often the determining factors for whether an interview is successful or not.

Here in Canada, candidates are expected to possess high self esteem and feel confident about 'selling' themselves to employers. This is perhaps the greatest distinction between the work cultures in Canada and Malaysia.

Numerous other facets of a culture come into play in determining on whether or not a candidate has had a successful

interview and it is impossible to list them all.

Suffice it to say that it is good to develop a feel for the subtleties that exist within any given culture in order to gauge what an employer might expect to see in a candidate.

LIN ABDUL RAHMAN IS A JOURNALISM STUDENT WITH A MINOR IN HUMAN RIGHTS AT LAURIER BRANTFORD.

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Metro World News in Philadelphia

When Patrick Gray graduated from Boston College in 1999, he was determined to become a detail-oriented professional. He started with perhaps the most overlooked detail of contemporary office culture: typing.

"It represented kind of bigger things to me. I thought, 'It's time to be a professional and learn to type for real,'" he explains. "I went cold turkey from two-finger typing. I thought, 'Even if it takes me 10 minutes on an email, I'm going to force myself to do it the right way.'"

"I think these skills are



Even you may need to retrain your digits to do a better job. ISTOCK

going downhill in most offices. There's less of this training at the high school and college level," says Sally Mounts, president of Auctus Consulting Group.

"It's kind of ironic, because we're all typing more than ever now, but we're less cognizant of typing

skills."

It took a full month of home-row discipline for Gray — now the president of Prevoyance Group, an IT company — to get his speed back up to where it was when he started: 20 words per minute. But after six months he was sailing along

at three times that rate.

"Growing up with computers, most people tend to two- or four-finger type. The hardest thing about re-training yourself is the first hour," says Mounts.

"It doesn't get worse than that. So if you can get through an hour, you're on your way."

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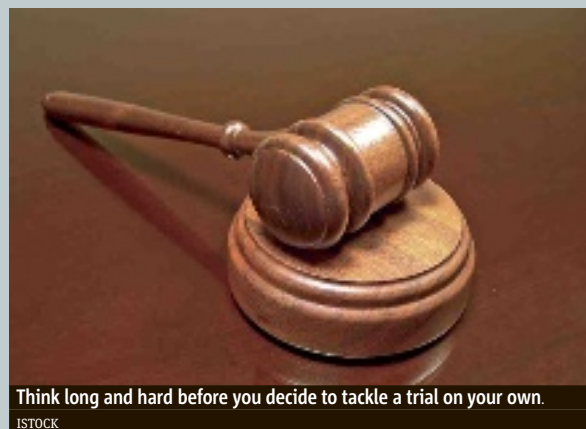
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One individual's experience, related below, confirms two of my favourite rules in law: people get what they pay for, and clients hire lawyers to get better results than they could get for themselves.

An individual I met with last year decided that she would argue her case on her own instead of hiring me as her lawyer. This was against my advice since her case was not simple and her former employer was unwilling to settle.

She was not easily convinced. Relying on a free brochure provided by the government, stating that lawyers are not mandatory for small claims court matters, she figured she could win on her own.

The problem was that, unlike many small claims matters where a lawyer is unnecessary, her case was complex. Properly conducting her own trial was a difficult if



Think long and hard before you decide to tackle a trial on your own.

not impossible task, a fact she either overlooked or chose to ignore.

Another reason she was dissuaded from hiring a lawyer was her fear of the costs. In her view, if she could obtain close to the same result that I could, then why pay for my time. However, this only made sense if she successfully settled or won her case — a point she completely disregarded when rejecting my offer to take on her matter.

Recently, she called me in a frenzy. She was on the verge of her trial and hoping that I would now take her case. No surprise there. Her employer was not prepared to settle, as I had predicted, and a pre-trial judge ordered her to retain a

lawyer, since she was incapable of arguing her own case. What's worse is that she was also ordered to pay her employer's legal costs for the preliminary hearing, an unusual result, often reserved as a penalty.

The lesson here is as follows: the value lawyers' supply to their clients is challenged as often as the advice they provide. Sometimes it is for a good reason. Often it is not.

Had this individual heeded my advice, she could have been cashing settlement cheques by now rather than having to pay legal costs to her ex-employer.

DANIEL A. LUBLIN IS AN EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN.

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SPORTS



MANNING

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"I'm not where I want to be. I want to be where I was before I was injured. There's a lot of work to do to get where we want to be from a health standpoint."

Peyton Manning on his surgically repaired neck after being introduced as the Broncos' new quarterback on Tuesday in Denver. The 35-year-old star signed a five-year, \$96-million US contract and said he plans to retire in Denver. Broncos vice-president John Elway, who engineered the deal, said no decision has been made on QB Tim Tebow's future.

"If Tim Tebow is here next year, I'm going to be the best teammate I can be to him."

Peyton Manning



Ottawa's Kyle Turris battles for the puck with Devils defenders in the New Jersey goalmouth Tuesday night. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shut down by the Devils

NHL. Senators fail to give goalie Bishop any offence as New Jersey sniper has milestone night in Ottawa

Ilya Kovalchuk's 400th career goal was the only offence of the night as the New Jersey Devils beat the Ottawa Senators 1-0 on Tuesday.

While working the point on the power play, Kovalchuk took a pass from de-

fenceman Marek Zidlicky and blasted a slapshot past Ben Bishop in the Ottawa goal at 17:20 of the second period.

Without even raising his arms, Kovalchuk then waited at the blue-line for his teammates to come to him for a subdued celebration.

Kovalchuk has 376 assists to go along with his 400 goals in 771 regular-season games, 694 of which were with the Atlanta Thrashers.

Subbing in for Martin Bro-

Tuesday's game

1

Devils

0

Senators

One away

599

Jason Spezza needs one more game to reach 600 for his career, all with the Senators

breakaway by Devils defence-man Anton Volchenkov.

Bishop made 33 saves and was certainly deserving of a victory for his effort.

The Senators were unable to capitalize on two

late power plays, including a five-on-three for nearly half a minute.

The Devils had a couple of early chances in the first period but Bishop turned them aside. The rest of the period was rather uneventful except for the penalty shot and a final-minute flurry by the Senators.

It was the second 1-0 win by the Devils in the past four games and their fourth of the season. They've also lost a 1-0 game this season.

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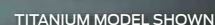


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Staying planted

To reduce the Roadster body's tendency to twist — which is pretty normal behaviour when the roof is removed — Mini installed additional structural bracing in the trunk area and other key spots. And to help keep the rear end planted, a trunk-mounted spoiler automatically deploys once the vehicle reaches 80 km/h.

Lowering the lid

The black-only cloth top that includes a heated glass rear window is secured in place with a twist of a single windshield-mounted lever. The spring-loaded lid lowers flat into its stowage spot by pressing a button located between the roll bars. The outer portion of the top remains exposed after the folding process.

Mini Cooper Roadster

- **Type:** Two-door, front-wheel-drive two-seat convertible
- **Engines (hp):** 1.6-litre DOHC I4 (121); 1.6-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (181-208)
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy): 7.2/4.9 (base 1.6)
- **Base Price (incl. destination):** \$25,000



All Minis share the same engines that burn premium fuel.

Engine

The Roadster gets the same basic trio of engines as every other Mini model, beginning with a 121-horsepower 1.6-litre four-cylinder for base models. A turbocharged 1.6 comes in the S version, while a tweaked-up 208-horsepower 1.6 is part of the John Cooper Works (JCW) package.

Review. It carries half as many people as the convertible, yet costs a bit more — a fair price to pay for a little extra sporting flair

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

Break out the SPF 50 and the Ray-Ban sunglasses because the Mini Cooper Roadster just arrived.

The two-seat convertible — a first for the Mini brand and a companion to the recently launched Coupe — adds some visual spice to the Mini's broadening model lineup that already includes a four-passenger drop-top. Admittedly, it seems a bit odd that BMW-owned Mini would now have two not-so-distinct convertibles that are constructed off the same platform and share the same mechanical bits. Furthermore, the two-seat Roadster lists for only \$300 less

than the standard four-place convertible.

Ah, but there's a point that's being overlooked. The Roadster swaps out the rear bench that isn't particularly roomy in the first place for an actual trunk (another Mini first). We're not talking cavernous space here by any means (it has a bit less volume than the Coupe's trunk) but it's enough to store a few decent-sized travel bags or a set or two of golf clubs regardless of whether the top is up or down.

The Roadster's styling is far less controversial than that of the helmet-headed Coupe and it looks better with the roof up than the existing Mini convertible. Combined with a windshield that has been tilted back an additional 13 degrees, the Roadster is one of the best looking of the bunch.

The hair-drying Roadster deserves its sports-car appellation. And, with pricing that ranges from \$30,500 to \$41,500, consider it an alternative to the league-leading Mazda Miata and an extra-fun way to celebrate the summer season.



Rollbars are obvious additions to the Roadster, but is there really anything more obvious than the giant speedometer at the top of the centre stack? The tachometer is located behind the steering wheel.



A mini with a trunk is a rare thing, but the Roadster has one. It takes the place of the rear seat in the four-passenger convertible model.

By comparison



1 Mazda MX-5 Miata
Base price: \$30,500



2 Fiat 500c
Base price: \$21,500



3 Smart Fortwo Cabriolet
Base price: \$21,700

5 DRIVE

Top Gear

One product for all

If you have rubber, vinyl and leather — and many vehicles do — you need three separate cleaners and conditioners, right? That used to be the case until Mothers VLR (Vinyl, Leather and Rubber) came along. The idea here is to quickly take care of the three types of surfaces with one product. How can one product take care of three completely different surfaces? The formula contains something called neatsoil (which comes from cows) for conditioning/softening/preserving, and lanolin (which comes from sheep) for water protection. Mothers claims VLR will safely remove tough stains and ground-in dirt while conditioning against drying, fading and cracking. This new product will sell for about \$10 wherever Mothers products are sold (in most big-box auto-parts stores such as Canadian Tire) or you can find out more at mothers.com.



On the web



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Wary of going it alone, automakers eye up dance partners

Autopilot



AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

The messages from some of the automakers at last week's Geneva auto show were somewhat contradictory.

Come look at all this great stuff we're building — way better than that crap the other guys build. Hey other guys, wouldn't mind a bit of help over here...

Just before the show, General Motors and the Peugeot-

Citroen group announced an alliance, which will see GM will take a seven per cent share of the French automaker.

The arrangement is not unlike several that have developed over the last decade or so, between other auto titans, who have no intention of merging or allowing one partner to eventually swallow the other.

These new arrangements are all about trying to save costs on huge, global engineering programs.

Basically they're saying, we'll share development costs, because they're crazy expensive, then afterwards, we'll put them in our respect-

ive brand offerings and compete against each other like heck.

May the better man win, when it comes to exploiting that technology we both worked on.

With their vast R&D budgets and resources, you'd think most automakers would be big enough on their own, but analysts cite that looming fuel efficiency and emission targets are scaring the pants off some players, especially ones that don't have everything yet lined up in their pipelines.

And no one wants to bet the farm on one emerging technology, be it electric, hybrid, diesel, hydrogen, CNG, etc.

Another incentive to build alliances is to make sure you're not shut out of emerging markets.

A mature market is much harder to penetrate and less profitable. That's one of the reasons Chrysler-Fiat wants its next development dance partner to come from Asia (Mazda? Suzuki?), where it doesn't yet have a big presence.

Another reason is that the European marketplace isn't looking so good for the foreseeable future. Best go somewhere else for growth.

Another enabler of this trend is Volkswagen. The German automaker has gone on record, and made the point again at this year's show in Geneva, that it will spend



A look at the Volkswagen display at the Geneva auto show. ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



A model poses with an Alfa Romeo.

over \$70 billion over the next five years, to become the world's biggest automaker in both sales and profitability by 2018.

Currently standing in its way are GM and Toyota. If you are going to step into a ring with a bulked-up VW, you might want to bulk up a little yourself.

Toyota and BMW recently decided to trade respective technologies (hybrid batteries, diesel engines).

The Nissan-Renault al-

liance is going strong, and also works with Mercedes-Benz on a couple of projects. Those are just a few of the inter-company initiatives out there. And more will surely come.

Will this make life harder on the small, quirkier manufacturers? Likely not. It hasn't yet.

The Geneva show was again full of specialty makes with weird ideas. You can't stop creative thought and drive, especially when some-

one, yet again, wants to build a car company in their vision. So it seems all good.

And it feels strangely hopeful too, and humane even, that some of the biggest companies in the world can figure out a way to work together, and at the same time, compete so fiercely in the marketplace.

It's heart warming ... It's life affirming ... It's ... Hold on ... Suddenly feeling verklempt ... Please talk amongst yourselves.

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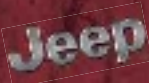
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Wide awake, no java needed

Autoknow. The Mercedes-Benz SLK senses when you should take a coffee break, but this driver was excited enough

MALCOLM GUNN

Wheelbase Media

There's a backlit icon of a simmering coffee cup on the 2012 SLK's control panel that, for anyone unfamiliar with the latest in Mercedes-Benz safety gadgetry, is certain to cause confusion.

Could it be this particular well-optioned roadster comes with its own coffee maker? Or perhaps the symbol flashes intermittently whenever a Starbucks comes into view? Impossible to say, since the owner's manual, a critical tome considering SLK's techno-laden content, was AWOL.

"They're frequently missing after the cars are returned so we keep them here in the office," explained a Mercedes-Benz press-fleet overseer. The missing manual limited the range of plausible explanations to the ridiculous.

Fortunately, an experienced Mercedes-Benz brand hand came to the rescue, appropriately enough while parked outside one of the Seattle-based caffeine purveyor's outlets. After admiring the SLK from top to bottom, he spied the tiny cup-and-saucer symbol and explained that it denotes "Attention Assist," which is a safety feature that's programmed to sense certain driving behaviours associated with fatigue and issues both visual and audible warnings to the driver suggesting he or she take a break.

The smell of fresh-brewed Pike Place Roast wafting out from the air vents could probably work just as well.

Attention Assist is a fine idea, but it's hard to imagine anyone nodding off in what is one of the more exciting M-B models on the market and the best SLK that the German automaker has devised to date.

The SLK has steadily evolved since its 1997-model-year North American debut. The current generation now looks less like an inaccurate representation of its larger SL-class relation and, at least from the front, now resembles its

By the numbers

5.4

Mercedes-Benz pegs the SLK roadster's zero-to-60-m.p.h. (96 km/h) time at 5.4 seconds, which is only about a second

slower than the SL. However that time is more than a second quicker than the base SLK 250 that uses a 201-horsepower turbocharged 1.8-litre four-cylinder.



Matte-finish paint is popular with some buyers, which is no doubt why Mercedes-Benz offers it. Whatever you do, don't use polish on the surface. WHEELBASE MEDIA



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A look at the SLK's cabin. Above, an overhead view of the car.

twin. Both cars feature nearly identical upright grilles, headlight pods and extended hoods, along with similar retractable hard-shell roofs. Of course, what they don't even come close to sharing is their respective price tags; the \$56,000 base SLK is offered at less than one-half the wallet hit of the SL.

Of course the SLK lacks the new-for-2013 SL550's 429-horsepower twin-turbo V8, but the 302-horsepower V6 and accompanying seven-speed automatic transmission in the SLK350 is no slacker.

The warp-factor model

of the triumvirate is the SLK55 AMG that receives the full aero kit treatment, unique nosepiece and fancier wheels. It also sends its power to the pavement using a 415-horsepower 5.5-litre V8 and earns a 4.5-second zero-to-60-m.p.h. (96 km/h) time.

Within the SLK range, though, the 350 in my possession has a certain just-right feel. Around town, the V6 operates in a docile fashion, but can quickly flex its muscles when a squirt of passing thrust is summoned, or when attacking a freeway on-ramp. During these measures, the engine

instantly clears its throat and delivers a distinctive, yet dignified growl while the seven-speed automatic imperceptibly kicks down into the appropriate gear. The SLK makes the entire process seem so easy and in no small measure enhances driving confidence.

Also easy is the two-seater's power-operated conversion to convertible from coupe status. The trunk lid pivots rearward while the hard tonneau cover flips upward and the two-piece roof stacks into its containment spot, followed by the trunk lid resuming its original position. The whole lowering/

raising sideshow consumes about 20 seconds.

The test model was equipped with the available Magic Sky Control, consisting of a glass roof panel that changes to opaque from clear with the flip of a switch. Also included is constantly adjusting shock-damping control and a faster-acting Direct-Steer system that reduces by 25 per cent the number of lock-to-lock steering wheel turns. About the only item of concern on the well-appointed SLK was its matte-finish Designo Glacier Grey colour scheme. The idea of an as-tested \$78,500 Mercedes wearing

what amounts to a really dull paint job might seem anathema to some buyers. It also carries a sternly worded missive warning of dire consequences should the finish ever be polished.

The SLK test stretched into a week of mostly sunny skies and light Pacific Ocean-scented breezes on Vancouver Island. In other words, perfect sports-car weather in a part of the world attracts plenty of them.

And likely not one of their grinning drivers, including one SLK350 pilot in particular, required a cup-and-saucer advisory to keep the adrenaline flowing.

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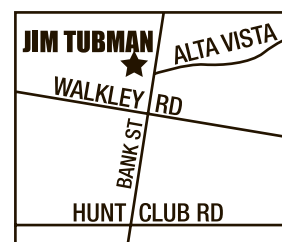
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Red light, green light? Your cellphone could know the answer



A look at SignalGuru in action. PATRICK GILLOOLY, MIT.

Driving Force.
Researchers at MIT
working on system
that could save drivers
20 per cent of fuel

JILL
MCINTOSH
Drive@metronews.ca

Red lights are crucial for traffic safety, but they can be hard on your gasoline consumption. Every time you stop for a red light, you use more fuel when idling and getting started again.

Fuel-efficient drivers will try to regulate their speed so they reach the lights as they turn green, but that's not always easy to do. Instead, a project at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is using cellphone technology to figure out just when your next light is going to change.

Since many people dock their smartphones on the dash for navigation, the researchers used them to devise a system called SignalGuru.

The cellphone cameras, which point at the street when the screen is facing the driver, photograph traf-

fic lights as the vehicle approaches them.

"The camera is used to study the pattern of the traffic signal," says Emmanouil Koukoumidis, visiting researcher at MIT.

"The information is downloaded from the mobile phones of drivers who have been through the intersection. Then we gather and process it, and we do what is called 'machine learning.'"

The collaborative system amasses information about each intersection, using maps and GPS to determine when the vehicle is approaching the traffic light. It then turns on the camera and captures video frames, determining exactly when the light changes from red to green.

Using this information, along with pictures taken previously, SignalGuru "studies the past" to determine the exact time the light will turn green in the future.

"It will know that the intersection is red but it will turn green in 30 seconds, so if you drive at 40 km/h instead of 45 or 50, by the time you hit the intersection it will be green so you can cruise through without stopping," Koukou-

midis says.

Using Boston as a model, the researchers calculated that drivers could save 20 per cent of fuel with the system.

The system is currently only a research prototype, although Koukoumidis has been contacted by commercial truck drivers interested in it, since large trucks use equally large amounts of fuel moving away from a stop.

The database could also potentially capture and process other important information such as gas station prices, the location of city buses, or the availability of parking spots.

SignalGuru

- In addition to prompting for specific speeds to reach green lights, SignalGuru could potentially use routing software to send a driver down a side street rather than slow to a crawl in anticipation of a green light.
- Vehicles are responsible for 28 per cent of energy consumption and 32 per cent of CO₂ emissions in the U.S., according to MIT research.

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2.5i model shown.

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Changing the car radio game

Audio. Internet radio is the next best thing in in-car listening

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

For drivers using their vehicle as a personal listening space, satellite radio has made terrestrial radio obsolete — but a new breed of 'Internet' radio may make satellite radio a thing of the past, too.

Satellite radio is great.

There's plenty of selection. The audio quality is good. You'll never have your listening interrupted to hear about the latest furniture sale or public service announcement about proper hand-washing.

Oh, and you can't drive out of range of a station since the signal is beamed down from space rather than across an expanse of land by an antenna.

But satellite radio, like terrestrial radio, is one-way.

Don't like what you hear? Change the channel.

And when you do, your most favourite song in the universe will come on while you listen to an OK song on

another station — meaning you'll miss a chunk of it.

This leads to station anxiety and rapid toggling between numerous station presets to decide where to tune in.

The result can be hearing fragments of songs, and it's a real pain in the butt.

But high-selection, in-car listening has advanced — and if you've got a Smartphone and a car stereo with auxiliary or Bluetooth input, that "better" listening experience is a cinch to tap into.

In Canada, the big-dog Internet radio service is called Slacker Radio.

The gist?

Imagine having only a few stations to choose from. Even as few as one. And they only play songs you'll probably like. And if they don't, you can instantly skip a song, or even ban it from playing on your station ever again. Like a song? Give it a 'heart' and you'll hear more of it.

Using Slacker is like having a fancy, DJ-assisted, music-spitting computer program feeding your ears only the tunes they like. And the basic service, which hooked me after trying it on a whim, should prove a more appealing and customized alternative to sat-

ellite radio for many.

It's free, too. The free service is fantastic, and two premium services are available optionally for less than your satellite radio subscription.

Using Slacker is as simple as visiting their site (slacker.com), signing up with your email address, selecting a 'seed' list of songs and beginning to listen to music you can enjoy, like or dislike.

Numerous genres are available, and the premium memberships even allow on-device storage of entire stations, or on-demand playback of any song or album available.



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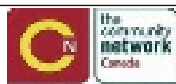
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Crossword

Across
1 Segment
5 Science room
8 Arizona city
12 On the briny
13 Id counterpart
14 Terrible guy?
15 Approve
17 Cheerful tune
18 Wheel radius
19 “— With Wolves”
21 Chantilly, e.g.
24 Understand
25 Initial stake
28 Burn soother
30 Altar affirmative
33 Scoundrel
34 Work dough
35 “— Town”
36 Greek H
37 Pruritus
38 Elbow counter-
part
39 Cornfield cry
41 Melody
43 Riga’s land
46 Lightweight wood
50 Sills solo
51 Meeting place
54 Lowly worker
55 “All the Things You —”
56 Muscat’s land
57 Huff and puff
58 Louis —
59 “Unh-unh”
Down
1 Go by
2 Memo acronym
3 Gambling mecca
4 Stop the ballcar-
rier
5 Souvenir from
29-Down
6 Past
7 007
8 Pooh’s creator
9 Bad news from

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18							19	20				
			21		22	23		24				
25	26	27			28		29			30	31	32
33				34					35			
36				37					38			
		39	40			41		42				
43	44				45			46		47	48	49
50					51	52	53					
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

the landlord
10 Post-Christmas event
11 Picnic intruders
16 Afternoon social
20 On in years
22 Lacks the skills to
23 Vote into office
25 Expert
26 Enthusiast
27 Force exerted by pulling
29 Aloha Tower site
31 Payable
32 Tramcar load
34 Fuzzy fruit
38 Michael, Diane

or Buster
40 — -garde
42 Leno’s network
43 Reindeer herder, maybe
44 Vicinity
45 Trojan War hero
47 Prom-night transport
48 Birthday cake?
49 Hathaway or Heche
52 Spoon-bender Geller
53 3-Down’s st.
For today’s crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Monday’s answer

J	A	C	K		A	P	R		G	R	E	W
A	L	O	E		R	O	C	E	I	O	T	A
B	I	N	I		T	I	S		G	O	D	I
		P	E	A		P	R	O	F	I	T	
S	H	R	E	W		C	O	C	L			
T	O	U	R		D	E	S	N	D	O	V	E
A	N	I		S	E	N	S		F	O	R	T
B	E	N	Z		O	A	T	E		V	I	N
		O	J	R	S		W	O	D	E	L	
H	I	D		H	A		K	A	Y			
C	V	U	M		B	E	N	J	A	M	I	N
P	I	K	E		L	E	C		G	A	T	E
S	I	H		T	E	K		F	E	R	E	S

Sudoku

		6			4		9				2
						2			1		7
						1			6	3	
	1									8	5
				8			7				
8	3									2	
	2	7			8						
9		1			4						
5				9		1				7	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Monday’s answer

2	6	4	5	3	8	1	9	7
7	5	1	8	8	2	4	3	9
9	8	3	7	4	1	5	2	6
1	7	9	3	8	8	2	4	5
5	3	8	2	7	4	9	1	8
4	2	8	1	9	6	7	5	3
8	1	2	8	5	7	3	9	4
3	9	6	4	2	6	8	7	1
6	4	7	8	1	3	6	5	2

Today

27°/12°
Sunny

Thursday

27°/6°
Thunderstorms
40%

Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.

Check the 14 day trend.

©The Weather Network 2012

Horoscope

♈ Aries | March 21 - April 20.
Be careful what you ask for today because you won’t be able to give it back if you change your mind.
♉ Taurus | April 21 - May 21.
You may find it hard to resist something that’s bad for you today. But maybe it’s OK to give in to your less disciplined side.
♊ Gemini | May 22 - June 20.
A friend will have a profound effect on your opinions and beliefs today, but don’t go changing your entire outlook on life.
♋ Cancer | June 21 - July 22.
There is a danger you could make some illogical decisions over the next 24 hours. On the work front, especially, think carefully.

♌ Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Not everyone sees the world through your eyes and you would do well to remember that fact today.
♍ Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. You may be worried about your money situation but that’s OK because it will encourage you to search harder for a solution.
♎ Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. A relationship is going through major changes at the moment. Don’t make any hasty decisions. There’s still time for you to decide.
♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. You need to face up to reality and admit that something is wrong. It won’t be as painful as you fear.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. Changes in the wider world will lead to new opportunities for you personally. Be ready.
♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan. 20. Someone you are close to will do something that takes you by surprise. Others think differently.
♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. Things won’t happen the way you expect them to over the next 24 hours but if you refuse to worry, everything will come right.
♓ Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. Life is not a zero sum game: There does not have to be a loser every time there is a winner.
SALLY BROMPTON



Caption Contest

“When it comes to doggie fashion, I think I’m it!”
Rick

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ GRAHAM HUGHES

Win!



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DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES
INCLUDED. PLUS HST.



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PAYMENT

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\$0
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PAYMENT

SELLING PRICE: \$25,895*
SANTA FE GL 2.4 6-SPEED.
DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES
INCLUDED. PLUS HST.



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the true definition of a cross-over*

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CUSTOMER CREDIT***



GLS model shown

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WITH
0%
FINANCING FOR
84 MONTHS



AND
\$0
DOWN
PAYMENT

SELLING PRICE: \$33,895*
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TO CUSTOMER CREDIT*
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